

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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PLS PASS ZEROLIS/LOS DELEGATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 25 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

VN BRANDS BOTH PRES FORD, JIMMY CARTER AS "PROTECTORS
OF U.S. IMPERIALISM" WHOSE POLICIES DIFFER LITTLE
(REUTER, WP).

2. THAILAND

CABINET REJECTS RESIGNATION OFFER BY DEF MINISTER WHO
CAME UNDER FIRE FOR HIS HANDLING PRAPHAS AFFAIR (WP).

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3. INDONESIA

AMCIT, AUSSIE BEING HELD BALI AFTER OVER 1300 LBS HASHISH
FOUND ABOARD LIGHT PLANE (REUTER JAKARTA).

4. AUSTRALIA

US' PACIFIC LIGHTING INTERESTED BUYING GAS FROM NW SHELF,
MAY LEAD TO DEVELOPMENT ONE OF BIGGEST NATURAL GAS FIELDS,
IN WORLD (STOVE, JOC). GOA CLEARS WAY FOR DELIVERY
URANIUM TO COMMONWEALTH EDISON OF CHICAGO DESPITE UNION
BANS (AP, WSJ).

5. CHINA

AFP (PHINQ) REPORTS "USUALLY RELIABLE DIPLOMATIC SOURCE"
SAID MANY AS 800,000 PEOPLE KILLED/INJURED/STILL MISSING
IN TANGSHAN QUAKE. PEKING OBSERVERS, BASING ESTIMATES
ON EYEWITNESS REPORTS, PLACE NUMBER DEAD IN TANGSHAN AT
100,000, BUT MANY FEAR THAT MAY EVEN BE UNDERESTIMATE.

6. PHILIPPINES

ARMED MEN BELIEVED BE MOSLEM REBELS AMBUSHED MIL WEAPONS
CARRIER, KILLING ONE SOLDIER, WOUNDING FIVE OTHERS NEAR
QUAKE-STRICKEN S PHILS CITY OF PURUAN (WP 8/24).

7. KOREA

MAC MET PANMUNJON WED. UNC SENIOR MEMBER R/ADM FRUDDEN
SAID KIM IL SUNG MESSAGE CONSIDERED "POSITIVE STEP",
BUT FACT REMAINS 2 US OFFICERS BRUTALLY BEATEN DEATH
WITHOUT PROVOCATION AND THAT FACT CALLS FOR PUNISHMENT
THOSE RESPONSIBLE. ALSO INSISTED ON ASSURANCES OF
SAFETY UNC PERSONNEL IN JSA, FREEDOM OF ACTIVITIES
GUARANTEED BOTH SIDES BE RESPECTED (REUTER, SEOUL).

MAJ BONIFAS BURIED TUES, AT WEST POINT, WITH FULL MIL
HONORS (NYDN; GUPT, NYT). WIDOW, FAMILY, GOVT OFFICIALS,
HONOR GUARD ATTENDED BURIAL 1/LT BARRET TUES, COLUMBIA,
SC (UPI, NYDN, NYT). NYDN RUNS BURIAL PHOTOS P-1, P-2
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AND CTR-PG SPREAD. NYT, SUN RUN FUNERAL PIX PG 1.

NO CRISIS ATMOSPHERE WASHINGTON. US OFFICIALS EXPECT
NORMAL CONDITIONS RETURN BY WEEKEND, BARRING UNFORESEEN
DEVELOPMENTS (NYT SPEC). US SEEN SEEKING END TENSIONS
(CHITRIB). MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE FORD WILL FORBID
DIRECT MIL RETALIATION (TREWITT, SUN).

DOS OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE EMBARRASSMENT OVER SUDDEN SWITCH IN REACTION KIM MESSAGE, BUT GIVE FEW DETAILS ON RECENT DIP ACTIVITY. SOME SAY HAK AUTHORIZED RELEASE KIM MESSAGE TEXT SUN, BUT NOT CONSULTED ON DOS REACTION THAT LABELLED "UNACCEPTABLE." (NYT SPEC).

DOD SPOKESMAN TUES SAID NO SPECIAL MIL ACTIVITY SK. TOLD PRESS GUAM-BASED B-52S FLY DAILY "PRACTISE MISSIONS" OVER SK, IN CONTINUING SHOW OF FORCE AGAINST NK (TREWITT, SUN; CHITRIB; NYT SPEC). DECLINED COMMENT WHETHER ARMED WITH NUKES, HOW LONG F-4'S, F-111'S WOULD STAY. NOTED MIDWAY TF CONDUCTING EXERCISES WELL S OF 38TH PARALLEL (UPI, PHINQ).

US SOURCES TUES DENIED NK CHARGE ENTERPRISE TF HEADED FOR KOREA; SAID LEFT SF FOR PEARL HARBOR SEVERAL DAYS AGO, WOULD RELIEVE RANGER ON STATION OFF PHILS (CHITRIB, PHINQ).

TUES DONG-A ILBO EDIT ASKED "IS US BACKING DOWN AGAIN?" STATED APPEASEMENT INSTEAD FIRM ACTION WOULD ENCOURAGE GREATER NK MILITANCY (CHITRIB). ROKG DECLINED COMMENT, BUT POLITICANS/PRESS IN SEOUL SEETHING WITH CRITICISM OF US STATEMENT MON THAT KIM IL SUNG MESSAGE WAS "POSITIVE STEP." RALLIES IN SEOUL/PROV CAPITALS DEMANDED RESOLUTE MEASURES AGAINST NK. AMB SNEIDER DISCUSSED MATTER TUES WITH FM ON SHORT NOTICE, FOR SECOND TIME SINCE CUTTING SHORT HL (AP, SUN, NYDN). MANY SKOREANS ANXIOUSLY ASKING AMERICAN FRIENDS EXPLAIN SUDDEN SWITCH IN US REACTION TO KIM MESSAGE (BUTTERFIELD, NYT).

AS FURTHER EXAMPLE CONFUSED SITUATION, BUTTERFIELD NOTES 83 US/SK PRESS TAKEN PANMUNJON TUES FOR MAC SESSION;
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WHEN REACHED IMJIN RIVER WERE TOLD BY US MIL SPOKESMAN THAT NK REJECTED CALL FOR MEETING TUES, BUT AGREED TO MEET WED.

SK SUPREME CT TUES UPHELD CONVICTION/SENTENCE OF NEWSMEN LEE PU YOUNG, SUNG YU BO, AND TEACHER CHUNG JONG BONG; ARRESTED LAST JUNE, TRIED ON CHARGES FOMENTED MAOIST REVOLUTION (REUTER, NYT).

8. JAPAN

MIKI MET TUES WITH FUKUDA/OHIRA, WHO ASKING HIM RESIGN. MORE THAN 2/3RDS LDP DIETMEN CAUCUSED EARLIER TUES, FAILED ADOPT RESOLUTION URGING PM RESIGN (CHITRIB). MIKI RIVALS EXPECTED CONTINUE BITTER ATTACKS WED

(CULLISON, JOC). MIKI SPURNED CALL STEP DOWN, AS LDP SYG NAKASONE SAID CAUCUS LACKED LEGAL POWER ADOPT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PM RESIGN BECAUSE HELD WITHOUT CONSENT PARTY LEADERS (HORVAT, WP). CAUCUS ADOPTED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR "FRESHENING OF THE PARTY", BUT REFRAINED FROM VOTING NO CONFIDENCE IN MIKI, PM THEN WENT ON TV, TOLD PUBLIC "IT IS I WHO DECIDES WHETHER I REMAIN OR LEAVE." IN VIEW MIKI REFUSAL STEP DOWN SPECULATION MOUNTING THAT 14 CABINET MEMBERS OPPOSING PM MAY RESIGN EN MASSE (MALCOLM, NYT). FUDUDA/OHIRA TOLD PRESS WED WISH SETTLE POWER-STRUGGLE WITH MIKI LATER IN DAY, SINCE DRAGGING OUT ISSUE WOULD ONLY

INCREASE PROBLEMS FACING GOJ (MACKENZIE, REUTER).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

9. INDOCHINA

ANDELMAN (NYT) NOTES 1ST PHASE VN FENCE-MENDING WITH NEIGHBORS OVER, HANOI WAITS REAP REWARDS FROM CONCILIATORY POLICY. NOTES SKEPTICISM OF ASEAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY IN THAILAND, BUT SEES DEVELOPMENTS LIKELY CONFIRM TO HANOI THAT POLICY EFFECTIVE; VN CLEARLY PLEASED BY NONALIGNED SUMMIT VOTE URGING US AID RECONSTRUCTION, WHILE UN EMBARKS ON SEVERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. VN BE-
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AINS "TEST" INTL FINANCIAL, BUSINESS COMMUNITY, INCL ADB FOR LOW-INTEREST CREDIT, GIVING JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN WARM RECEPTION IN HANOI. MENTIONS SOFTER APPROACH TO DIPLOMATS, BUSINESSMEN BY VN OFFICIALS. CONCLUDES LESS-BELLIGERENT STANCE SEEMS HAVE IMPACT, AS SIGNED BY SUD-DEN IMPROVEMENT LAOS-THAILAND RELS. SAYS IMPORTANT HANOI MOTIVE MAY BE IMPROVING PROSPECT FOR RAPPROCHEMENT WITH US. MENTIONS EXAMPLES IMPROVED VN RELS WITH RTG, MALAY-SIA, ADB. THINKS HANOI ALSO HOPES GAIN IN CLAIMS TO OFFSHORE ISLANDS; AID IN OIL EQUIPMENT, TECHNOLOGY; TRADE IN MINERALS, AGRIC ITEMS TO OFFSET IMPORTS INDUSTRIAL GOODS.

REUTER'S CHANDA LOOKSOVER ANTI-COMMUNIST OPPOSITION IN VN, CONCLUDES RESISTANCE DIMINISHING REPORTS EXAGGERATED. MENTIONS ANTI-GOVT INCIDENTS, INCLUDING ARREST REV THANH, ONCE SERIOUS THIEU OPPONENT. NOTES DIFFICULTY GETTING PEOPLE GO NEW ECON AREAS.

10. THAILAND

LAT'S MACARTHUR (8/24) REVIEWS PRAPHAS AFFAIR, NOTES WK

"DEBILITATING TURMOIL" FOR INSECURE SENI GOVT, WITH POSSIBLE NEW MIL TAKEOVER THAILAND RAISING APPREHENSIONS IN NON-COMMUNIST SEA, ESP MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE. REPORTS SOME THAI MILITARY THREATENED FORCE IF GOVT TRIED ARREST PRAPHAS, BUT COMPROMISE WORKED OUT TO AVOID "THAIS SHOOTING THAIS." SCOFFS AT STORY THAT PRAPHAS ONLY WANTED MEDICAL TREATMENT, BUT SEES LITTLE EVIDENCE FULL-SCALE COUP PLANNED; BELIEVES LIKELY DISSIDENT MIL OFFICERS WANTED SERVE NOTICE ON SENI THAT MILITARY COULD GRAB POWER QUICKLY IF CIVILIANS WENT TOO FAR, WHILE PRAPHAS WANTED DEMONSTRATE STILL COMMANDED ENOUGH POWER TO UNDERMINE ANY GOVT. POINTS OUT STUDENTS' POL INFLUENCE COULD NOT BE IGNORED, THO IN DECLINE UNTIL PRAPHAS

RETURNED. CONCLUDES GENL WHO ESCORTED PRAPHAS BACK TO TAIWAN MAY HAVE HAD MISSION REASSURING FORMER STRONGMAN THAT NOT FORGOTTEN, BUT MIL COLLEAGUES WANT NO MORE SURPRISES LIKE LAST WK'S RETURN.

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11. GENERAL

KRAFT (8/24 SUN, WP) OPINES NE ASIA RIVALS ME FOR NO. 1 DIPL HOTSPOT IN WORLD. SEES PANMUNJON INCIDENT AS PART DIPL CAMPAIGN, BELIEVES NOT OPENING GAMBIT IN NEW ROUND MIL VIOLENCE. MENTIONS PRC-USSR TROOP CONFRONTATION IN SIBERIA, US FORCES IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO SK, JAPANESE SECURITY PROBLEM. SAYS COCKPIT OF AREA IS KOREAN PENINSULA, W/NK ON "LUNATIC FRINGE" OF COMMUNIST WORLD; SK THRIVING, COULD BE FORMIDABLE/PROSPEROUS COUNTRY WITH FEW YRS' PEACE, THO PARK'S AUTHORITARIAN ACTIONS GENERATE CRITICISM IN US, JAPAN, ELSEWHERE. POINTS OUT SLAYING US OFFICERS COINCIDED WITH NONALIGNED SUMMIT. KRAFT BELIEVES BASIC CONDITIONS IN AREA CHANGING; PRC POLICY IN SUSPENSE, POL ALIGNMENTS IN JAPAN REARRANGING DUE LOCKHEED SCANDAL, US IMPATIENCE WITH SK REGIME GROWS. MENTIONS JIMMY CARTER'S PROPOSAL FOR WITHDRAWAL US TROOPS FROM SK OVER 5 YRS, NORMALIZING RELS WITH PRC. CRITICIZES 1-SHOT PROPOSALS SINCE NOT CONNECTED WITH GENL PROCESS ADJUSTMENT IN NE ASIA, WOULD CONVINCE JAPAN/SK/EVEN PRC THAT US ABANDONING POSITION IN ASIA. RECOMMENDS BEST THING IS FOR US SET IN MOTION GENL REVIEW POLICY IN NE ASIA THAT WOULD AT LEAST SERVE CUT OFF DANGEROUS 1-SHOT PROPOSALS.

CHIS-T (8/19) REVIEWS RECENT QUAKES. ADVISES MORE RESEARCH ON PREDICTION. HOPES PRES' NEW SCIENCE ADVISER CAN STRESS NEED. WP NOTES SCIENCE OF PREDICTING DISASTERS ADVANCING IN PAST FEW YRS; POINTS TO PRC QUAKE PRE-

DICTION. SEES PUBLIC POLICY QUESTIONS: WHAT RESOURCES OUGHT BE DEVOTED TO STUDY EARTH'S STRESSES, WHAT PROBLEMS WILL ARISE IF RELIABLE PREDICTION METHOD CREATED-- SHOULD GREAT CITIES BE EVACUATED ON BASIS PREDICTIONS? SAYS FUTURE QUESTION IS WHETHER ENOUGH PEOPLE WILL ACQUIRE ENOUGH FAITH IN WARNINGS IN TIME TAKE COSTLY/ DISRUPTIVE PRECAUTIONS. SALISBURY (CSM) LOOKS AT QUAKE SITUATION, WARNING METHODS. SAYS MORE USG SUPPORT VITAL TO DEVELOPMENT PREDICTION METHODS.

12. PHILIPPINES

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SUN'S SEIDEN INTERVIEWS PRISONERS HELD IN COTABATO WHO ACCUSED BEING MUSLIM REBELS. MOST ADMIT AIDING UNDERGROUND MUSLIM NATL LIB FRONT; 2 SAY ARE INNOCENT, WERE TORTURED INTO MAKING FALSE CONFESSIONS. MEN APPEAR HAVE NO LEGAL RECOURSE UNDER MARTIAL LAW WHICH ALLOWS THOSE SUSPECTED OF SUBVERSION TO BE HELD INDEFINITELY, W/O CIVIL TRIAL/FORMAL SENTENCING. SEIDEN DESCRIBES CRAMPED/DIRTY CELLS, POOR FOOD/NO MEDICAL TREATMENT. WHEN SEIDEN ASKED MIL AUTHORITIES ABOUT LEGAL STATUS OF PRISONERS, HE WAS DETAINED 2 HRS, WARNED NOT WRITE ABOUT PRISON, FORCED LEAVE ON 1ST DEPARTING PLANE.

TURED INTO MAKING FALSE CONFESSIONS. MEN APPEAR HAVE NO LEGAL RECOURSE UNDER MARTIAL LAW WHICH ALLOWS THOSE SUSPECTED OF SUBVERSION TO BE HELD INDEFINITELY, W/O CIVIL TRIAL/FORMAL SENTENCING. SEIDEN DESCRIBES CRAMPED/DIRTY CELLS, POOR FOOD/NO MEDICAL TREATMENT. WHEN SEIDEN ASKED MIL AUTHORITIES ABOUT LEGAL STATUS OF PRISONERS, HE WAS DETAINED 2 HRS, WARNED NOT WRITE ABOUT PRISON, FORCED LEAVE ON 1ST DEPARTING PLANE.

13. CHINA

TENZIN TETHONG, ACTING REPRESENTATIVE OF DALAI LAMA, WRITES CSM DISPUTING WESTERN AUTHOR HAN SUYIN, JOURNALIST NEVILLE MAXWELL OPINIONS ABOUT "GLOWING AND GLORIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS" OF CHINESE IN TIBET. REMARKS NO TIBETANS EVER ASKED CHINESE "LIBERATE" THEM; QUESTIONS WHETHER COUNTRY MUST BE "CONVENIENTLY FORGOTTEN" SIMPLY BECAUSE MATERIAL PROGRESS, WHICH HAS BEEN UNIVERSAL IN PAST FEW DECADES, ALSO MADE WAY TO TIBET. CONCLUDES SPIRIT NOT BROKEN, AND ENTIRE WORLD, "NOT JUST SELECTED FRIENDS," WELCOME INSPECT EXILED COMMUNITIES, LEARN TIBETAN SIDE OF PROBLEM.

CHIONG-HUI HWANG, CHRMN FORMOSAN CHRISTIANS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION, WRITES NYT IN REPLY 8/9 EDIT. STRESSES THAT TAIWAN'S FATE CANNOT BE SETTLED "BY ANY KIND OF FORMULA, JAPANESE OR WHATEVER" W/O CONSULTING ITS PEOPLE. URGES US CONSIDER PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN FURTHER DEALINGS W/CHINA.

TRUDEAU'S DOONESBURY STRIP HAS AMB "DUKE" PREPARING FOR SURGERY IN PRC. DUKE REMINDS DOCTOR THAT HE WON'T BE

HOLDING "JUST ANOTHER DISEASED ORGAN" IN HIS HANDS, BUT
WHOLE FUTURE SINO-US RELS. DOCTOR ASKS WHAT DUKE SAID;
PRC INTERPRETER REPLIES "WAS JUST WISHING YOU GOOD LUCK."

14. NONALIGNED SUMMIT
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SF CHRON (8/18) STATES WHILE TRUE 3RD WORLD ECONOMICALLY
EXPLOITED, NONALIGNED "GO NEGATIVE" ON US PROPOSALS AIMED
AT HELPING STABILIZE COMMODITY PRICES, SUCH AS HAK'S INTL
RESOURCES BANK PROPOSAL AT NAIROBI LAST MAY. SUPPOSES
WILL BE NECESSARY PUT UP WITH "BAD-MOUTHING SRI LANKA COM-
MUNIQUE," HOPING NONALIGNED WILL CONTINUE KEEP GEN-
ERALLY PEACEFUL, "OUT OF MISCHIEF."

CSM STATES SOME ASPECTS COLOMBO MTG SEEMED LESS PARTISAN
THAN '73 ALGIERS MTG. NOTES THAT FOR 1ST TIME, DOZEN OR

SO COUNTRIES STOOD UP, REGISTERED OBJECTIONS TO RESO-
LUTION DEPLORING "IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION" IN KOREA. CSM
GIVES CREDIT TO HOSTESS PM BANDARANAIKE FOR KEEPING CONF'S
FOCUS ON ECONOMIC RATHER THAN POLITICAL ISSUES. SAYS
WHAT WILL FLOW FROM CONF IN PRACTICAL TERMS NOT CLEAR,
SINCE IT HAS NO DIRECT LINKS W/INTL FORUMS IN WHICH N-S
TALKS TAKE PLACE. CONCLUDES NONALIGNED SHOW THEY ARE
ALIGNED--AGAINST WORLD'S WIDE DISPARITIES.

8. JAPAN

BEECH (CDN 8/20; GLOBE 8/23) CITES US PROJECTION OF
RECORD 22 BILLION DOL US/JAPAN TRADE THIS YEAR. NOTES
FIRST HALF US DEFICIT WAS 2.5 BILLION DOLS, DUE DECLINING
EXPORTS, RISING JAPANESE IMPORTS. STATES US OFFICIALS
"CONCERNED, BUT NOT WORRIED"; ATTRIBUTE DEFICIT TO
JAPANESE SELL-OFF INVENTORY ACUMULATED DURING RECESSION.
WHEN GONE, EXPECT JAPANESE REPLENISH RAW MATERIALS, THUS
BOOST IMPORTS FROM US IN SECOND HALF.

WOHL (CSM SPEC) DESCRIBES GROWING "SOVIETRANS-AUTO"
SHIPMENTS, CARRYING PRODUCE TO EUR, TOOLS/SPARE PARTS
ON RETURN. ANOTHER CLIENT, JAPAN, SHIPS GOODS TO
NAHOKDKA, TRANSFERS TO TRANSIB RR TO BREST LITOVSK,
THEN TRANSFERS AGAIN TO SOV TRUCKS BOUND WEST.

CHITRIB'S SHARON KELLER DESCRIBES USES OF JAPANESE
FUROSHIKI, WHICH ONE MUST CARRY THESE DAYS TO BE "HIPPIEST
KID" IN MANY CHICAGO NEIGHBORHOODS.
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THARP (WSJ) REVIEWS FACTORS/PRESSURES ON JAPAN TO INCREASE DEFENSE SPENDING, PLAY BIGGER ROLE IN ASIA. SAYS JAPAN'S DEFENSE POLICY HAS FAR-REACHING INTL IMPLICATIONS, WELL AS BEING HOT DOMESTIC ISSUE. CITES US OFFICIAL WHO PERCEIVES "BEGINNINGS" SIGNIFICANT/FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN JAPANESE PERCEPTIONS OF DEFENSE POLICIES, MST. ALLUDES TO FOREIGN CONCERNS ABOUT REVIVAL JAPANESE MILITARISM. QUOTES DEFMIN SAKATA CAVEAT THAT "JAPAN WON'T BECOME MIL POWER; ASKS OTHERS WATCH, SEE FOR SELVES.

9. KOREA

CDN (8/20) CONDEMNS NK "BLOODTHIRST", PANMUNJON MURDERS. CAUTIONS OUTRAGE HAS NO VISIBLE REMEDY, SINCE NEITHER US NOR SK PREPARED RESUME HOSTILITIES. YET TRAGIC, HARD TO SWALLOW DEATHS OF 2 MEN THAT MUST GO UNAVENGED.

CSM EDIT EXAMINES "DARK SIDE" OF ROK. RECALLS 3RD ANNIVERSARY KIM DAE JUNG KIDNAPPING FROM TOKYO. LISTS TRIALS OF DISSIDENTS. URGES US BE AS BLUNT WITH PARK ABOUT EROSION HUMAN RIGHTS IN SK AS WITH NK OVER OUTRAGE AT PANMUNJON.

NYDN'S WIEGHART BELIEVES IT AN AWFUL PRICE TO PAY, BUT IF MAC TALKS LEAD TO FORMULA TO SAFEGUARD US/SK LIVES IN DMZ SOME GOOD MAY EMERGE FROM UNPROVOKED, BRUTAL MURDERS LAST WEEK.

ZORZA (WP 8/24) SAYS PANMUNJON INCIDENT, ON FACE, DOES NOT MAKE SENSE. EXPLORES POSSIBILITY NK MAY HAVE PERCEIVED US AS AGGRESSOR. WHILE NK FAILED PERSUADE WORLD US/SK PLANNING ATTACK, ASKS WHAT IF PERSUADED SELVES FORD BENT ON "MILITARY ADVENTURE?" RECALLS NK WAS SHARPEST CRITIC OF MAYAGUEZ MOVES BY US, MAY HAVE SEEN SIGNS SIMILAR MOVE TO BOOST ADMIN POPULARITY BEFORE ELECTION. NOTES WASHINGTON BELIEF NK DANGEROUSLY IRRATIONAL, AT LEAST RECKLESS; SOME ARGUE IN FAVOR OF PRECAUTIONS AGAINST POSSIBLE NK CHALLENGE DURING CAMPAIGN. NOTES SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE SUCH STEPS MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN, WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR SUDDEN SHRILL NK WARNING AUG 5 THAT US/SK READY ATTACK. TURNED BACK

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"HOOLIGANS" NEXT DAY, WHO TRIED TRIM TREE; WHEN RETURNED AUG 18 MAY HAVE VIEWED AS ATTEMPT PROVOKE WAR-LIKE ACTION. ONLY SURPRISE WAS THAT NKOREANS THEN PROCEEDED TO ACT

IN MANNER SHOWING THEY ONLY TOO EAGER PROVIDE SUCH PRETEXT.

MIDDLETON (NYT 8/24) STATES US MIL PLANNERS CONFIDENT ABOUT US POSITION IN KOREA, ABILITY BRING UP POWERFUL REINFORCEMENTS IN CASE OF WAR; BELIEVE FORCES CAN HANDLE ANY OFFENSIVE, GIVEN PRC NEUTRALITY. REVIEWS MANPOWER/EQUIPMENT 2D DIV, 5 AF, 7TH FLEET, WELL AS SK/NK FORCES.

BEECH, IN SEOUL, (CDN 8/21-22) REPORTS ARRIVAL F-4 PHANTOMS FROM OKINAWA, OTHER US MOVES IN AFTERMATH DMZ SLAYINGS. SAYS SITUATION MOST SERIOUS SINCE NKOREANS SEIZED PUEBLO 1968, SHOT DOWN UNARMED EC-120 1969.

SAAR, IN SEOUL, (WP 8/24) NOTES SOME SK OFFICIALS PRIVATELY URGING US REPRISALS FOR KILLINGS. CITES OBSERVERS WHO READ KIM IL SUNG MESSAGE AS ABRUPT BACK-PEDALLING FROM PUBLIC BELLICOSITY; ADDS NK RADIO STILL ACCUSING "US IMPERIALIST AGGRESSOR." (FLANKED BY AP PHOTO OF SEOUL WORKERS' RALLY CONDEMNING NK "WAR PROVOCATION.")

CSM 98/24) STATES US HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT RESPOND WITH SOME DISPLAY OF FORCE TO SAVAGE SLAYINGS AT PANMUNJON. NOT CLEAR WHETHER INCIDENT CLEARLY "PREMEDITATED" AS DOS INSISTS. CONCLUDES NK HANDLING SHOWS NOT ANXIOUS FOR CONFRONTATION WITH US. WITH TREE CHOPPED DOWN, INCIDENT APPEARS OVER, BUT POINTS UP URGENT NEED FOR ADMIN PURSUE PROPOSAL FOR 4-POWER TALKS RESOLVE PROBLEM OF DIVIDED KOREA, BEFORE BATTLE OVER TREE BECOMES BATTLE OVER COUNTRY.

CSM (8/24) TAKES NESSEN TO TASK FOR GARBLED STATEMENT SUN ABOUT NK MESSAGE. SUCH SLIP TRANSMITTED NATIONWIDE COULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE REPERCUSSIONS. DECLARES PANMUNJON AFFRAY TOO IMPORTANT, TOO DELICATE TO BE CLOUD -- COULD HAVE TRIGGERED MAJOR CONFRONTATION IN ASIA -- IN WHICH CASE BEING PARTLY RIGHT IS SCARCELY GOOD ENOUGH.

YOUNGCHE KANG (SYG, KOREAN CONGRESS FOR DEMOCRACY/ UNIFICATION) LETTER TO CSM (8/24) REVIEWS PARK REPRESSION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF OPPONENTS. STATES CONTINUOUS FOREIGN CRITICISM, PROSPECT OF NEW ADMIN IN US RESTRAINS HIM FROM DOING WORSE.

CSM'S WILLS, IN MOSCOW, EXAMINES DETENTE AND US ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SEES SEVERAL DANGERS US/USSR RELS OVER NEXT 10 WKS, INCLUDING KOREA, WHERE US, "WITH AT LEAST ONE EYE ON MOSCOW", REACTED PROMPTLY/TOUGHLY TO INCIDENT ON DMZ. ADDS PENINSULA POINTS LIKE DAGGER AT JAPAN, AND VITAL US ECON/STRATEGIC INTERESTS THERE. KISSINGER

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